



Collier, Hendry, and Glades County Businesses
Support Affordable Energy Reform Legislation

March 26, 2026

Dear Representative Lauren Melo,

We, Food and Water Watch and our undersigned business allies, write to urge you to publicly support affordable energy legislation reform. Local businesses in Collier, Hendry, and Glades counties are suffering as large corporations like Florida Power and Light prioritize profit over the financial well being of their customers. On top of rising inflation, skyrocketing utility bills pose a significant challenge that threatens the viability of small businesses and undermines our community's economic stability.

The DeSantis appointed Florida Public Service Commission approved a \$7 billion rate hike for Florida Power and Light customers. It is the largest rate hike in U.S. history. With this approval, 12 million Floridians will pay an average of \$14 more each month starting January 2026. Next year, FPL customers will pay an additional \$175 each year in energy, fuel, and taxes. By January 2028 bills will be \$289 more each year.

Food and Water Watch analysis shows that from December 2020 to January 2026, the average FPL customer using 1000 kilowatt hours each month will see bills increase by 45%, which equals \$513 more each year. Small businesses face even steeper increases as fuel costs and base rates continue to rise.

Additionally, the current rate request would raise the utility base rate for small businesses by 69%, from \$22.50 to \$38.10. This does not include an anticipated 35% rise in fuel costs, which could add an additional \$50 to \$100 to monthly utility bills for businesses already struggling with rising operational costs. [National polling shows that 96% of small business employers report that higher gas and fuel prices have a negative impact on their business.](#)



Local residents and businesses cannot afford continued rate increases, especially as energy consumption and bills surge during the hot summer months. It is the duty of our representatives to do the right thing and support affordable energy reform that stands with Floridians, not monopoly utilities, and ensures affordable, reliable and resilient energy that works for every community.

We need accountability from regulators and fairness for families and small businesses because stronger utility accountability can bring down cost and improve economic resilience.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of this important issue affecting Florida families and small businesses.

Respectfully,

On behalf of the following small businesses supporting affordable energy reform:

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| 1. Happy Kid's Store & More | 10. T Webb Irrigation LLC | 19. Fernweh Ice Cream |
| 2. Clasica Telecard Corp | 11. Glovit Inc / Edgar's Automotive Service Repairs | 20. Omayya Studio |
| 3. Univista Insurance LLC | 12. Naples Life Nutrition | 21. Mr Beef of Naples |
| 4. NRNetworks LLC | 13. New Sajaris | 22. Ace Mart Envios Inc |
| 5. Gins Beauty Supply | 14. Osmany Auto Parts | 23. New Level's Bar & Grill |
| 6. Lovely Creations | 15. VSM's Night Cut | 24. Caracol Latino Inc |
| 7. Coronado Laundromat | 16. U R A Star Island Juice | 25. Guillot Group |
| 8. Flamingo Mini Market | 17. Cleveland Bass Movers | 26. Crew SWFL Solar |
| 9. Galdos Dental | 18. Mario's Hair Salon | 27. Aguirre & Bro Inc |